



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 23, 2007

No. 118

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BYRON L. DORGAN, a Senator from the State of North Dakota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, as we enter a new week, let Your favor rest upon the Members of our Government's legislative branch. Establish the works of their hands, and strengthen them to honor You by serving others. Let Your life-giving spirit move them to feel greater compassion for those in need. Use them to remove barriers that divide us, to make suspicions disappear, and to cause strife to cease. May they strive to be agents of healing and hope as they help us all live in greater justice and peace. Help them to daily develop greater respect and submission to Your commands.

Today, we unreservedly commit to You our lives and the decisions to be made. We relinquish our control and submit to Your will.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BYRON L. DORGAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BYRON L. DORGAN, a Senator from the State of North Dakota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. DORGAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are getting used to Senators ENZI and KENNEDY. They seem to have been on the floor for several days now, and we have at least 1 more day, maybe part of another day, but I hope not—not because I don't want them here but because we have other things to do.

The Senate is going to immediately proceed to S. 1642, the higher education reauthorization legislation. There will be no morning business. Under a previous agreement, there will be 8 hours for debate on the bill and amendments. First-degree amendments are limited to 12 amendments per side, with 6 for each manager and an additional managers' amendment, with first-degree amendments limited to 30 minutes for debate equally divided and any second-degree amendments limited to 15 minutes for debate equally divided. So at approximately 5:15 today, we will begin voting on the pending amendments. We

are hopeful we will be able to dispose of all of them this evening.

Following the disposition of this bill, we are going to proceed to H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill. I hope we can finish that bill quickly. I hope we don't have to file cloture on it. If we do, that is what we will do. Hopefully, we can finish the bill. It is extremely important. It deals with homeland security. I will tell all Senators, the bill we have calls for more money than the President's suggestion, but remember, we go to conference on all of these bills. The House will have passed by the end of this week—certainly by the middle of next week—all the appropriations bills. So we need to get some done over here so that we can go to conference. So I repeat, if somebody has a concern about ours being for more money than the President's, don't worry about it. We have conference to go to, and as we know, in years past, the White House always has the ability to work with us in conference.

When we finish Homeland Security, we are going to go to the children's health bill, which is extremely important. It is important because the bill that has been brought before the Senate is one that is a compromise, a bipartisan piece of legislation, a bill that was reported out of the committee by a 17-to-4 vote. That certainly suggests bipartisanship, and it provides health care for millions of American children. So I hope we can get consent to proceed to this legislation following Homeland Security. If not, we will file cloture, and we will go to it after that.

But as everyone has heard me say, this work period, we are going to complete Homeland Security, SCHIP, we are going to complete the conference report on the 9/11 Commission recommendations, we are going to complete work on the ethics and lobbying reform, and we are going to move to another appropriations bill, which will be Military Construction and VA. All

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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